

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please rewrite the paragraph of the specification beginning on page 5, line 3 as follows:

--Further, the second flange 14 as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 can be formed of two different thicknesses. As shown in Fig. 3, the distal ends of the second flange 14 can be formed with a lesser thickness 22 than that portion of the flange in the immediate vicinity of the tube 16. This difference in thickness allows for the distal ends of the device to be more easily folded along the tube 16 for implantation into the patient. Because of the curvature of the second flange 14, and the formation of the thinner distal ends, the second flange 14 resists being pulled in the direction of the first flange 12 or being ejected from the patient by coughing. Despite having a lesser thickness 22 than that portion of the second flange 14 in the immediate vicinity of the tube 14, the curvature of the flange and the formation of the distal ends help to prevent the second flange 14 from folding in the direction away from the first flange, and thereby assists in the securing of the tracheal stent in the patient.--

Please rewrite the paragraph of the specification beginning on page 6, line <sup>14</sup>~~16~~ as follows:

MJD 12/26/06

--Another aspect of the present invention is the oxygen delivery catheter 24 shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The catheter 24 is generally tubing which connects the stent 10 to an oxygen supply source 28. On the end which will be inserted into the stent 10, at a distance from the end approximately equal to the length of the stent 10 is a bushing 26. The bushing 26 prevents the catheter 24 from being inserted into the stent 10 beyond the desired distance. Another feature of the present invention is the lip 30 on the tube 16 side of the second flange 14 as shown in Fig. 5. The lip 30 also assists in preventing the catheter 24 from extending beyond the second flange 14 more than the desired distance. Yet another feature of the catheter is the bevel 32 on the end of

the catheter 24 to be inserted into the stent 10. The bevel 32 helps to ease the insertion and retraction of the catheter 24 into and out of the stent 10. Extending from the end of the catheter 24 to be inserted into the stent 10 is a hood 36. The hood 36 assists in guiding the airflow of the oxygen away from the tracheal wall and down into the trachea of the patient. The hood 36 substantially eliminates the forcing of air against the tracheal wall and provides a more direct airflow route into the lungs of the patient.--

Please rewrite the paragraph of the specification beginning on page 7, line 14 as follows:

--On the opposite end of the catheter 24 is a universal connector for insertion of standard oxygen tubing from the oxygen supply source. Accordingly, following implantation of the stent 10 in the patient, the catheter 24 can be inserted into the stent 10 until the bushing 26 rests against the end of the ~~sent~~ stent 10 and the oxygen supply can be started. To clean the stent 10 or the catheter 24, the catheter 24 can be removed from the stent 10. This removal action will have a cleaning effect on the end catheter 24, and the catheter can be further cleaned to ensure a good flow of oxygen to the patient.--